CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended)   A method of communicating between a graphical component

library and an appearance manager, comprising:

issuing, by the graphical component library, a rendering service request for a graphical

component, the request including at least one component defining parameter; and

receiving, by the appearance manager, the rendering service request for the graphical

component and assigning appearance characteristics to the graphical component based upon the

at least one component provided parameters;

issuing, by the graphical component library, a request for a theme handle corresponding

to a set of appearance characteristics;

receiving, by the appearance manager, the theme handle request;

identifying, by the appearance manager, a theme handle;

issuing, by the appearance manager, the requested theme handle; and

receiving, by the graphical component library, the requested theme handle.

2. (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the parameters include a part ID and a state ID,

and wherein the assigned appearance information is based upon the part ID and state ID.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 31, wherein the theme handle is issued to the

appearance manager as one of the parameters in the rendering service request.

5. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 4, further comprising:

issuing, by the appearance manager to the graphical component library, a message that the desired appearance characteristics have changed;

issuing, by the graphical component library to the appearance characteristic-manager, a request for a new theme handle corresponding to a new set of appearance characteristics;

identifying, by the appearance manager, a new theme handle identifier; and

issuing, by the appearance manager to the graphical control-component library, the requested new theme handle.

6. (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the requested graphical component is a control.

7. (Original)   The method of claim 6, wherein one of the parameters of the graphical component rendering service request is a location for the control.

8. (Original)   A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 1.

9. (Original)   A computer system having a processor, a memory and an operating environment, the computer system operable to perform the steps recited in claim 1.

10. (Original) A method of communicating between a graphical component library and an

appearance manager, comprising:

issuing, by the graphical component library, a request for a theme handle corresponding

to a set of appearance characteristics;

receiving, by the appearance manager, the theme handle request;

identifying, by the appearance manager, a theme handle;

issuing, by the appearance manager, the requested theme handle; and

receiving, by the graphical component library, the requested theme handle.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising issuing, by the graphical component

library, a rendering service request for a graphical component, the request including at least one

component defining parameter and wherein the theme handle is issued by the graphical

component library as a component defining parameter.

12. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 10, further comprising:

issuing, by the appearance manager to the graphical component library, a message that

the desired appearance characteristics have changed;

issuing, by the graphical component library to the appearance characteristic manager, a

request for a new theme handle corresponding to a new set of appearance characteristics;

identifying, by the appearance manager, a new theme handle identifier; and

issuing, by the appearance manager to the graphical ~~control~~ component library, the

requested new theme handle.

13. (Original) A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 10.

14. (Original) A computer system having a processor, a memory and an operating environment, the computer system operable to perform the steps recited in claim 10.

15. - 26. (Canceled)

27.   (New) A method for rendering graphical components on a computer executing applications comprising:

routing graphical component rendering requests from applications through a Fusion

process;

determining, by the Fusion process, if graphical components requested to be rendered by

the graphical component rendering requests are theme-aware;

rendering graphical components that are not theme-aware using a system graphical

component library; and

processing theme-aware graphical component rendering requests using a theme graphical

component library that renders the theme-aware graphical components using a

theme manager.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the processing act comprises:

generating, by the theme graphical component library, part, state and location information

for theme-aware graphical components from the theme-aware graphical

component rendering requests;

passing, by the theme graphical component library, part, state and location information

for theme-aware graphical components to the theme manager; and

rendering, by the theme manager, theme-aware graphical components.

29. (New) The method of claim 27 further comprising:

applying, by the theme manager, theme-specific appearance characteristics to theme-

aware graphical components; and

rendering, by the theme manager, theme-aware graphical components.

30. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the processing act further comprises:

retrieving, by the theme manager, theme data from a shared memory map data file.

31. (New) The method of claim 27 further comprising:

receiving a theme selection from a user; and

populating a shared memory map file with theme data associated with the theme

selection.

32. (New) The method of claim 27 further comprising:

specifying some graphical components as theme-aware graphics.

33.   (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the routing act further comprises:

routing all graphical component rendering requests from predetermined applications

through the Fusion process.

34.   (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the processing act comprises:

determining for each theme-aware graphical component if the theme graphical

component library includes a corresponding predefined theme graphical

component; and

rendering, by the theme graphical component library, any determined corresponding

predefined theme graphical components.

35.   (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the processing act further comprises:

for each theme-aware graphical component for which the theme graphical component

library does not include a corresponding predefined theme graphical component,

generating, by the theme graphical component library, part, state and location

information for theme-aware graphical components from the theme-aware

graphical component rendering requests;

passing, by the theme graphical component library, part, state and location

information for theme-aware graphical components to the theme manager;

and

rendering, by the theme manager, the theme-aware graphical components.

36.   (New) A method for selecting a theme on a computer system:

providing a fusion process with a list of theme-aware graphical components, wherein the

fusion process passes theme-aware graphical component rendering requests to a

graphical component library;

receiving a theme selection from a user;

requesting, by the graphical component library, a theme handle for the selected theme

from the theme manger for each theme-aware graphical component in the list; and

returning, by the theme manager, a theme handle for each theme-aware graphical

component for which a corresponding theme graphical component exists in the

selected theme.

37.   (New) The method of claim 36 further comprising:

returning, to the graphical component library, an indicator identifying a corresponding

system graphical component from a second graphical component library for each

theme-aware graphical component in the list for which a corresponding theme

graphical component does not exist in the selected theme.

38.   (New) The method of claim 36 further comprising:

returning, to the graphical component library, an indicator identifying a set of theme

information and properties for each theme-aware graphical component in the list

for which a corresponding theme graphical component does not exist in the selected theme.

39.   (New) The method of claim 36 further comprising:

using the returned theme handle to render each theme-aware graphical component for which a corresponding theme graphical component exists in the selected theme.

40.   (New) A computer system comprising:

a plurality of applications, each application capable of making graphical component rendering requests only through a fusion process;

the fusion process for determining if each graphical component rendering request is a request to render a theme-aware graphical component or a non-theme graphical component and for passing theme-aware graphical component rendering requests to a theme graphical component library and non-theme graphical component rendering requests to a non-theme graphical component library;

one or more non-theme graphical component libraries capable of rendering non-theme graphical components; and

the theme graphical component library capable of rendering theme-aware graphical components through the use of a theme manager.

41.   (New) The computer system of claim 40, wherein the fusion process maintains a manifest specifying theme-aware graphical components.

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42.   (New) The computer system of claim 40, wherein the theme graphical component library is capable of generating one or more parameters from a theme-aware graphical component rendering request and passing the parameters to the theme manager and the theme manager is capable of rendering the theme-aware graphical component based on the passed parameters.